

March 2014

SAAFE Center News

www.victimsservices.org

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Guest Columnist: Brittany

I've been a volunteer advocate with the SAAFE Center since Aug. 2012 and I'm one of two women of color. I'm very happy that the SAAFE Center now has an Outreach Specialist who is focusing on outreach to underserved populations, in particular to women of color. This is because minority groups that normally would not know about the SAAFE Center are now being educated on what services we provide. Many women in minority populations are assaulted and usually do not come forward to report these incidents. I believe women in minority populations will feel more inclined to report these incidents now that we have an Outreach Specialist that is a woman of color. This is because they will be able to relate on a more personal level to what they may be feeling. Plus, it always feels good to have someone that is similar to you on your side through a tough time. I feel that having an Outreach Specialist will help these women to heal emotionally and spiritually. I know that having an Outreach Specialist will inspire more minority women to become involved with the SAAFE Center in a volunteer capacity as well.

There are many positive aspects that come with having an Outreach Specialist, who is a woman of color, working at the SAAFE Center. The aspect that I find most important is that it adds diversity to the SAAFE Center staff. This is because minority women are able to add different views or opinions that are totally different from non-minority women. I feel that cultural misconceptions about minorities are often debunked when people of color and white people work together. I believe that it helps the entire population, regardless of color, when people come together and support each other. Another advantage to being a part of the SAAFE Center is that it helps people learn their own biases towards minorities, which can help them change their attitude toward minorities.

A disadvantage of not having much diversity at the SAAFE Center is that issues that are important to people of color are often not discussed. However, I feel that the non-minorities at the SAAFE Center are more aware of the struggles that minorities face on an everyday basis. I feel this way because both volunteers and staff members work with minorities in a professional setting. This helps them to provide better services to the people of color that they may work with.

I want to encourage any women or men of color that may read this article to please consider volunteering at the SAAFE Center. It is truly a chance to help the community of Wood County and have a profound and positive impact on other people's lives.

I'm glad that the Outreach Specialist is working to get more people of color volunteering by getting in contact with some student organizations that minority students are involved in. Some of these organizations are: NAACP, African People Association, Latino Student Union, and Black Student Union. I believe members of these organizations appreciate the opportunity to hear about the SAAFE Center and would consider being a volunteer.

We are eager to work with and reach out to Women of Color. Now that we have an Outreach Specialist we are better equipped to fit the needs of women of color in this community.

Important Dates

- 16th: R&R 1-2PM
3-4PM
- 17th: St. Patrick's Day
- 20th: R&R 7-8 PM
- 20th: First Day of Spring!

On Campus Office

Our on campus office is located in room 355 of the *Psychology Building*. At these times each week, an advocate will be available to speak with individuals face to face.

Monday: 8-9AM

Tuesday: 1-2PM

Wednesday: 8-9AM

Thursday: 11AM-12PM

There is also an advocate available at the Women's Center (Hanna Hall Rm. 107) on Wednesday from 4-5PM.

An advocate is ALWAYS available 24/7 by contacting the Link, (419) 352-1545.

Advocate of the Month: *Ashley*

Congratulations to Ashley for being named Advocate of the Month for February! Ashley has been a volunteer advocate since April 2013. She has worked with many clients during that time, and in particular has provided excellent advocacy in two difficult cases over the past several months. Ashley makes herself very available to her clients and does not shy away from difficult conversations she must have during the course of a case. Ashley was also a full-time core leader (spanning 9 weeks) for the fall 2013 training class and provided leadership to the other core leaders and the trainees. In December, she successfully spearheaded a fundraiser for the SAAFE Center, bringing in over \$550 for the Victims Emergency Fund. We thank Ashley for all she has given thus far and hope she will be with SAAFE for a long time to come!



“I went to see the movie The New Black, which is about blacks in the LGBTQ Community fighting for equal rights. I had a great time outreaching and passing out business cards to people attending the documentary.” -Taneisha
www.thenewblack.com

Available Publications!

- “Women of Color and Sexual Assault” brochure
- “LGBTQI Persons and Sexual Assault” brochure

Publications Coming in March!

- Bystander Intervention Curriculum (more updates to follow on Facebook and Twitter)
- “Teens and Sexual Assault” brochure
- “Sexual Assault in the Military” presentation

Call The Link (419/352-1545) and ask for the SAAFE on-call advocate. We will deliver or mail brochures to you.

Volunteer Banquet!

Our volunteer banquet is a way of honoring our volunteers and thanking them for their commitment to the SAAFE Center. These volunteers go through 40 hours of training before becoming volunteer advocates. Our volunteer advocates take 3 on-call shifts per month, those shifts are during the night and weekends. Many awards are given out at the banquet, including but not limited to: Advocate of the Month, Core Leaders, On-Campus Office Staff, and Advocate of the Year. This year, it will be held on Sunday April 13 at 5pm, the location is to be determined at a later date.

Wellness Connection 5K!

For many years, the Wellness Connection has hosted a 5K as a fundraiser for us. In addition to the 5K, there is a dog walk. The dog walk is shorter than the 5K. All of the proceeds go to the SAAFE Center. This race starts and ends at the BGSU Recreational Center on April 26. T-shirts from our Clothesline Project will be displayed at the finish line. A huge thank you to the Wellness Connection for supporting our organization throughout the years! There will be more information regarding this event on our Facebook and Twitter pages and in our April newsletter.

Upcoming Events in April

With April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the SAAFE Center has many activities planned. Like our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter for dates and times.

- Painting the Spirit Rock teal.
- Qdoba fundraiser